

Exeunt Dramatis Personae (2003)

a photographic series by George Harris

The stage, the theatre, the village hall; a place of entertainment, engagement with a cultural experience, whether it's a play, musical, concert or even a night at the bingo, these are places where a basic social exchange occurs.

In this series of nine photographs, George has used the theatrical stage in a moment of non-action, void of performers and audience, depicting the moment of stasis as a celebration of the fragile existence of the performer. The photographs shift a space of entertainment and escapism to a place of temporal banality.

"We know the original relation of the theater and the cult of the Dead: the first actors separated themselves from the community by playing the role of the Dead: to make oneself up was to designate <sup>oneself</sup> ~~oneself~~ as <sup>a</sup> ~~body~~ simultaneously living and dead..."  
Roland Barthes 'Camera Lucida' pg.31

The Photographs are initially documents of spaces in the moments before & after an action occurring. The physical space could be now taken as having the role of the performer. Using the idea of the 'theatre of the absurd', where the **objects** and physical space hold the attention, ~~creating a continuous narrative.~~

"In everyday life, 'if' is a fiction, in the theatre 'if' is ~~the~~ an experiment. In everyday life, 'if' is an evasion, in the theatre 'if' is the truth. When we are persuaded to believe in this truth, then the theatre and life are one."  
(Peter Brook - 'The Empty Space' (Macgibbon & Kee Ltd/1968, pg. 140/I)

'Exeunt Dramatis Personae' (translates as All the Actors have left the stage), is a personal investigation into absence and isolation with the human condition. The stage being a place / space where this is being played out within the many performances that take place on it.

~~Photographs were taken in many venues including cabaret clubs, theatres, cinemas, churches, village halls, discos, night clubs, pubs, private clubs, political clubs, company social clubs, gig venues, bars, etc...~~  
The final selection of images only depicts a few of these. Some are more obvious than others in what venue it could be. ~~Some are close some are far away...~~  
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No Text Indication is given...

George Harris is a founding member of the NOPARKING Collective and his most recent work has gone <sup>away</sup> ~~on~~ from the photographic image, using paint and nails.

For more images from this project and others go to George's Website at

[www.georgeharrisphoto.co.uk](http://www.georgeharrisphoto.co.uk)

For the NOPARKING Collective go to [www.noparkingcollective.com](http://www.noparkingcollective.com)



Each Framed Print is £150 unless otherwise stated.

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